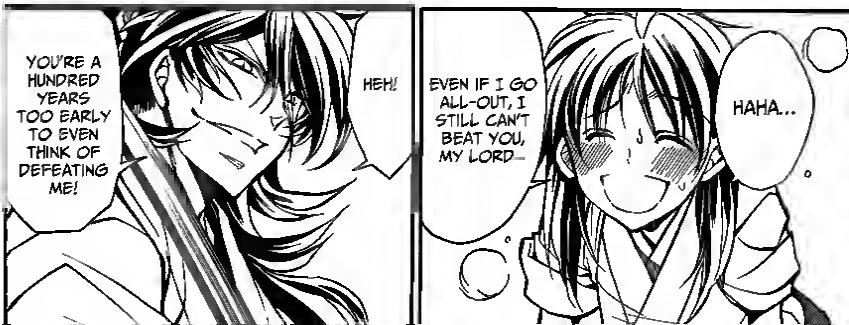
FINAL CHAPTEH: TO THE FUTURE

HAAH...
HA...
HAH...


YOU'RE A HUNDRED YEARS TOO EARLY TO EVEN THINK OF DEFEATING ME!
HEH!
EVEN IF I GO ALL-OUT, I STILL CAN'T BEAT YOU, MY LORD—
HAHA...

HAAH...
HAAH...
.....
ARE YOU READY?
...YES.
I FEEL REALLY REFRESHED...!
NOW IT'S TIME...
TO SAY GOODBYE TO EVERYONE...!!

YOU'RE RETURNING TO YOUR COUNTRY!?
ARE YOU SERIOUS!? KASANE ..!
WHY SO SUDDENLY..!?

I'M SORRY... THAT I'M SPRINGING ALL THIS ON YOU OUT OF NOWHERE...
BUT... I FINALLY FOUND IT.
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS..
I FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO GO HOME...!!
AND YOUR LITTLE BROTHERS ARE WAITING FOR YOU THERE.
YES...
EVERYONE HERE HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR ME. YOU'VE ALL HELPED ME SO MANY TIMES.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS A STRANGER, YOU WERE ALL SO KIND TO ME.
SO..
HOW CAN I SAY SOMETHING SO SELFISH RIGHT NOW...!

YOU ARE NOT BEING SELFISH AT ALL.
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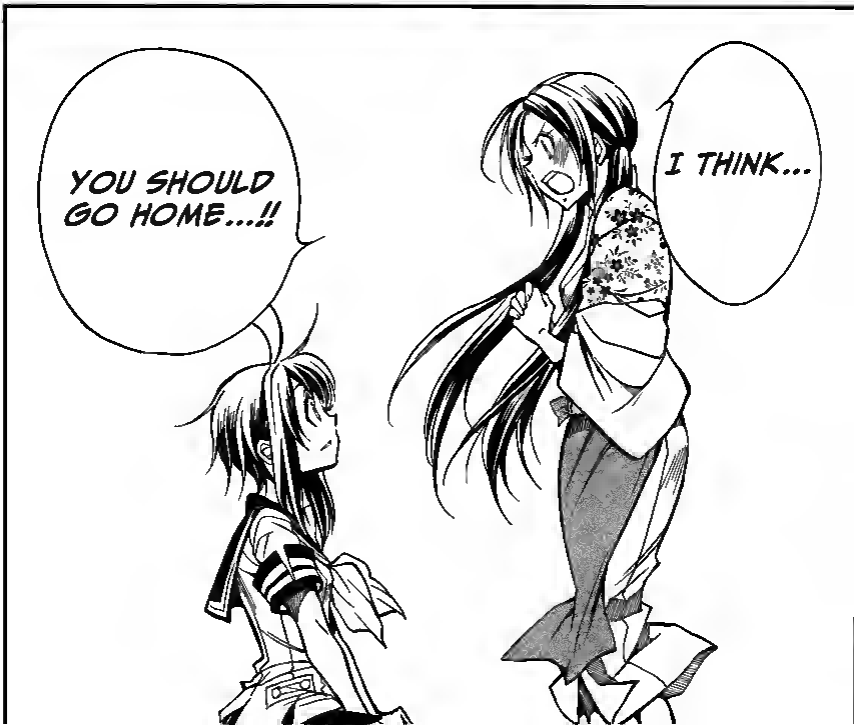
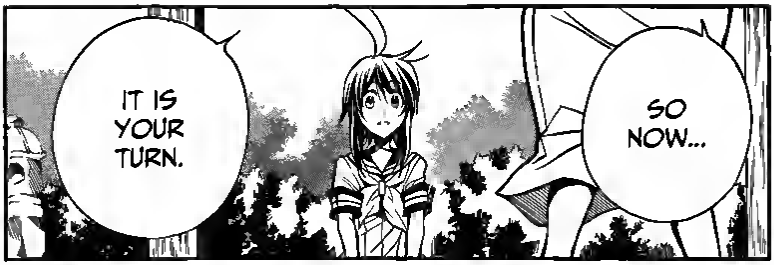
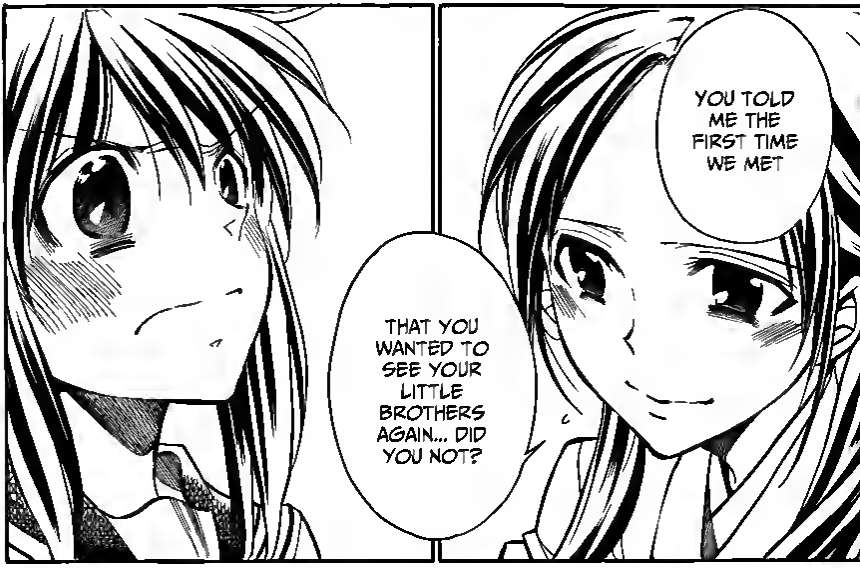
KASANE...


I THINK...
YOU SHOULD GO HOME...!!

I DO NOT WANT TO NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
I MEAN...
SAYO?
SAYO...
BUT...
YOU HAVE HELPED US SO MANY TIMES AS WELL..!
...IN FACT,
WE ARE THE ONES WHO WOULD NOT BE HERE TODAY WERE IT NOT FOR YOU, KASANE!
AND NOT ONLY US.
IS NONE OTHER THAN YOU, KASANE...!!
THE REASON EVERYONE HERE IS ALIVE AND HAPPY TODAY
THAT TIME...
YOU SAVED US WHEN YOU REFUSED TO GIVE UP AND KEPT FIGHTING.


IT IS YOUR TURN.
SO NOW...


YOU TOLD ME THE FIRST TIME WE MET
THAT YOU WANTED TO SEE YOUR LITTLE BROTHERS AGAIN... DID YOU NOT?

...YES!

I WANT TO SEE THEM AGAIN...!!!
I SEE.
キシッ
THEN WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S SELFISH TO SAY YOU WANT TO GO BACK?
NOHIME..
YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED YET?

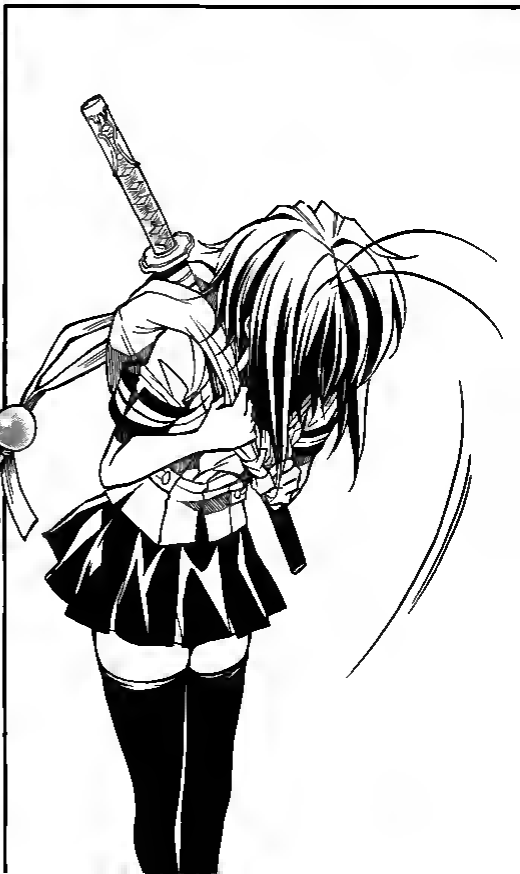
WE'RE TOUGHER THAN YOU GIVE US CREDIT FOR!!

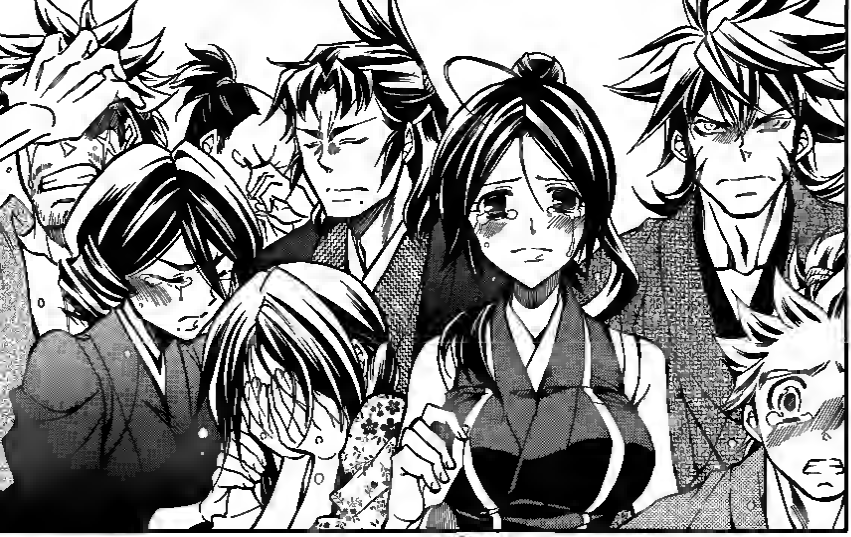
SURE, WE'LL BE SAD WHEN YOU'RE GONE,
BUT YOU'LL LEAVE BEHIND SO MUCH MORE.
EVERYONE WHO'S STILL SLEEPING WILL BE SAD WHEN THEY WAKE UP...
BUT THIS IS FOR YOU TO DECIDE, NOT US.
KASANE!
STICK OUT YOUR CHEST AND RETURN HOME...!

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS ..?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, STUPID!?
はは！
EVERY-ONE...!

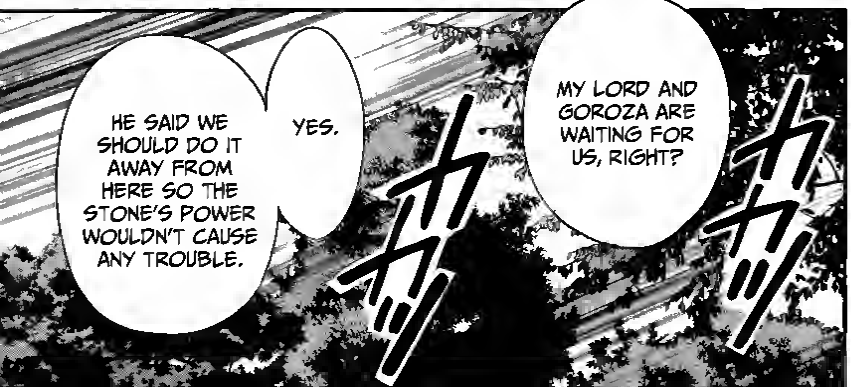
わいわい
GOT IT!?
DON'T GET SICK OR ANYTHING!
AND MAKE SURE TO COME BACK TO OWARI AND VISIT IF YOU MISS US!
AND DON'T GET LOST ON THE WAY!
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY ASKING US IF IT'S GOOD OR BAD TO WANT TO BE HOME!?
GET HOME SAFELY AND BE WITH YOUR FAMILY.
MORI... KAWAJIRI.
ばちん

OKAY...
OKAY...!!





YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ANYTHING?
NO...!


MY LORD AND GOROZA ARE WAITING FOR US, RIGHT?
YES.
HE SAID WE SHOULD DO IT AWAY FROM HERE SO THE STONE'S POWER WOULDN'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE.

THIS IS...

THE BEACH...
WHERE I MET EVERYONE FOR THE FIRST TIME...!
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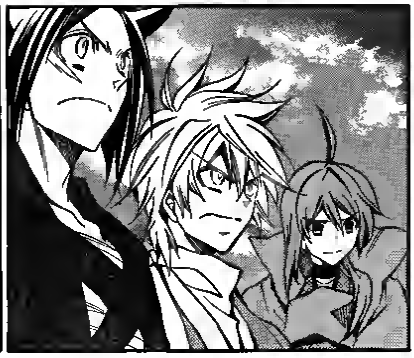
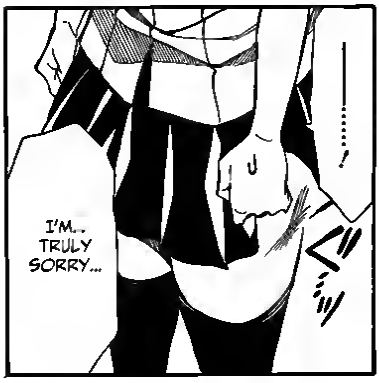
MY LORD!
AND EVERY-ONE...

HAVE YOU SAID ALL YOUR GOOD-BYES?
YES...!

I SPOKE
TO THE THREE FOOLS.



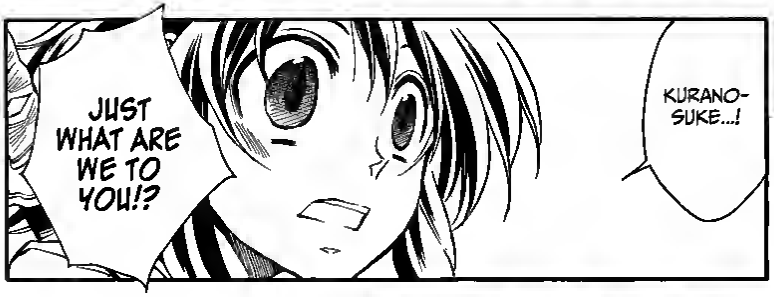

I'M... TRULY SORRY...

...WERE YOU
JUST GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING TO US?

HELL NO!!!

WE DON'T CARE THAT YOU DIDN'T TELL US YOU FOUND A WAY TO GO HOME, EITHER!
BUT...
THAT YOU'RE GOING TO GO HOME OR THAT YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO COME BACK...
WE DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT!!

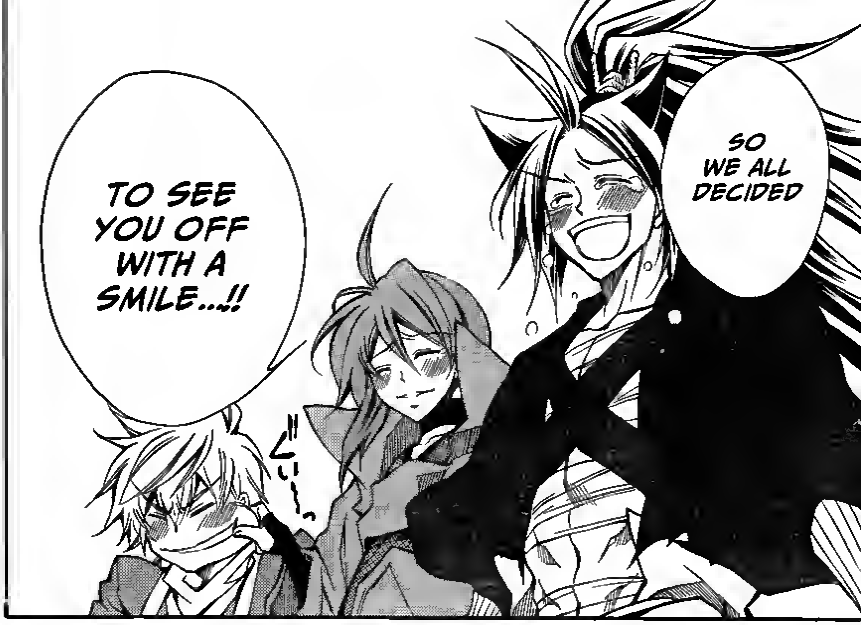
IT'S HOW YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE US FEEL BETTER BY NOT ACTING LIKE YOURSELF
THAT'S REALLY PISSING US OFF!!


KURANO-SUKE...!
JUST WHAT ARE WE TO YOU!?

FAMILY? COMRADES? FRIENDS?
I THOUGHT WE'D BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH TOGETHER THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP COULDN'T BE HELD BACK BY STUFF LIKE THAT!
SO JUST SMILE LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO UNTIL THE VERY END!
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
WE'LL SAY THE WORDS WE NEVER WANTED TO SAY...!

WE'RE SO HAPPY FOR YOU THAT YOU FOUND A WAY TO GO HOME!!!
EVERYONE..!
WHEN WE HEARD THE NEWS FROM OUR LORD,
WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD DO.
YOU TOO, GOROZA..?
YES.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
Doesn't suit him to be the one to say that!!

WE ALSO
CARE FOR YOU SO MUCH...!
ズキン
I...
I DON'T WANNA...!
I DON'T WANNA LOSE YOU...
KASANE ...!!
INUCHI-YO...!
BUT...
IT'LL BE BAD FOR YOU IF WE CRY...


SO WE ALL DECIDED
TO SEE YOU OFF WITH A SMILE...!!
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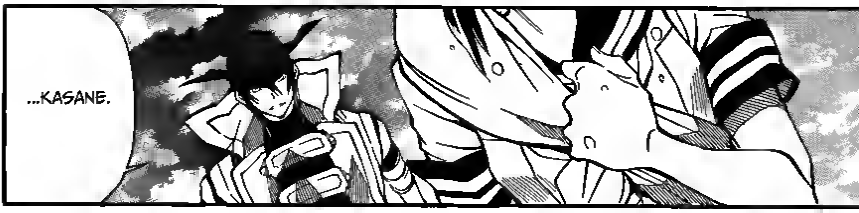

...KASANE.

THROUGHOUT ALL OUR HARDSHIPS,
YOUR SMILE HAS BEEN WHAT SAVED US.
SO PLEASE...

SMILE UNTIL THE VERY END.
I'M SO GLAD... I MET ALL OF YOU...!!!
THANK YOU...!

I GUESS...
THIS
REALLY IS GOODBYE...
I...
EVERY-ONE...
I...

DO YOU REMEMBER
THE DAY WE FIRST MET HERE?

I WAS A CHILD WHO HAD JUST CAME INTO MY INHERITANCE,
AND COULD DO NOTHING BUT CONTINUE THIS WAR.

I HAVE LOST MANY ALLIES,
AND GAINED MANY AS WELL.
AND NOW, TOGETHER WITH EVERYONE WHO HAS BELIEVED IN ME AND STAYED WITH ME
TO UNITE OWARI AND DESTROY THE IMAGAWA,

I STAND
AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR "NEW JAPAN."

IT IS YOUR POWER
THAT HAS BROUGHT ME HERE,
KASANE KUSANAGI.

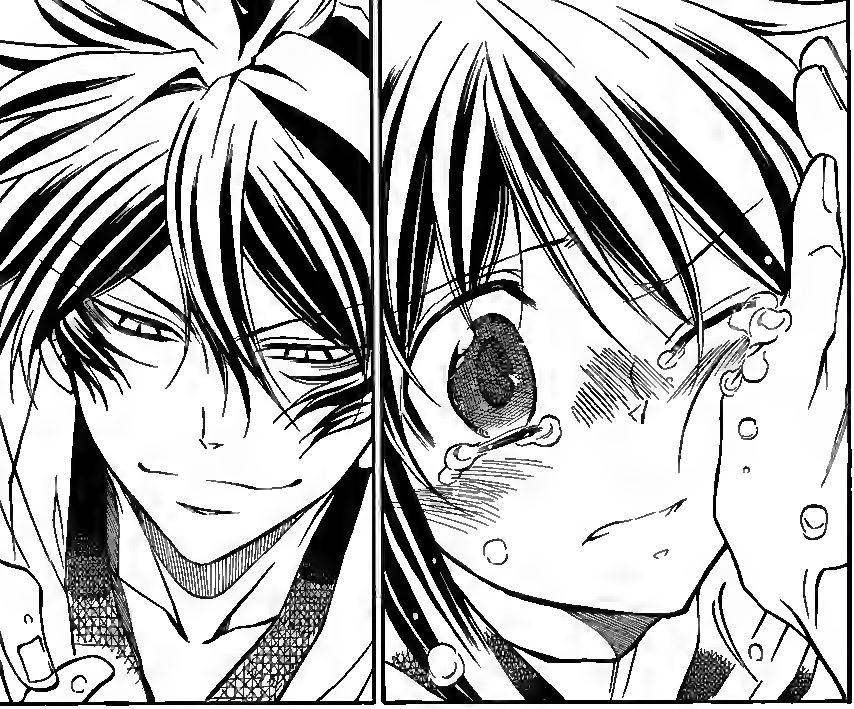
YOU HAVE DONE WELL.
ドスッ

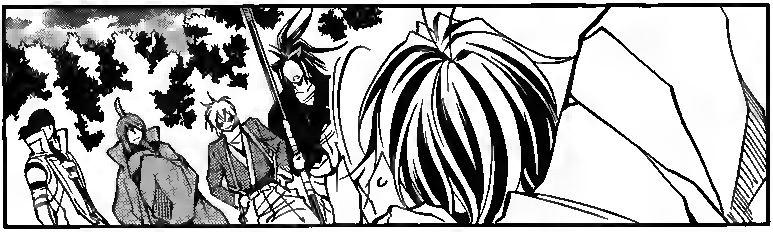
NO...!
NO...
I'M SO SCARED THAT I CAN'T GO ON...!!
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ALONE...!
I JUST WANT...
I JUST WANT TO STAY WITH YOU...

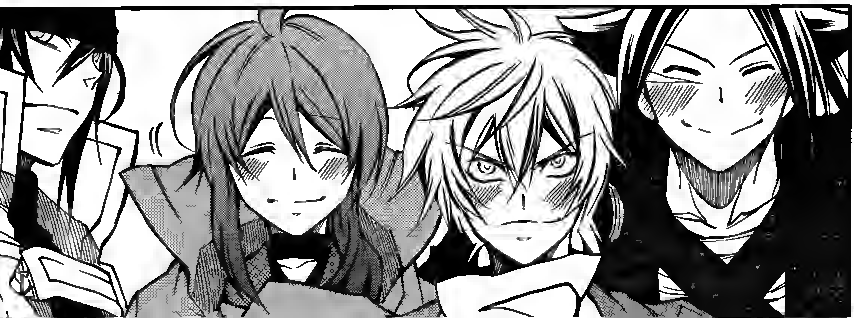
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU YOURSELF SAID?
YOU SAID THAT I WAS NO LONGER THE "ME" WHO WAS ALONE,
AND THAT I SHOULD BE "MYSELF" UNTIL THE VERY END!

I WILL NEVER GIVE UP.
I WILL NEVER STRAY FROM MY PATH.
I WILL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF MYSELF.
AND...

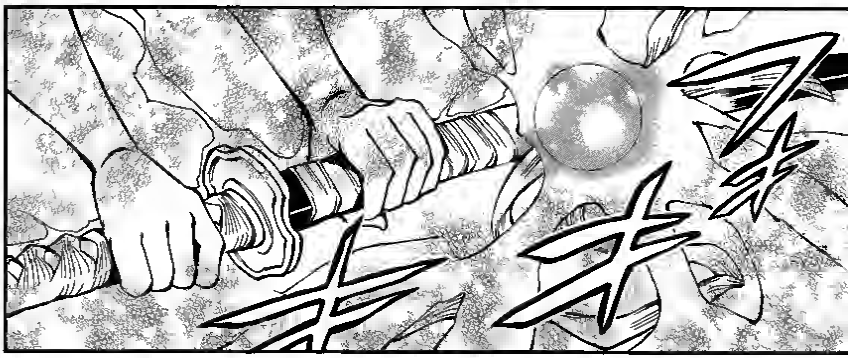
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU.

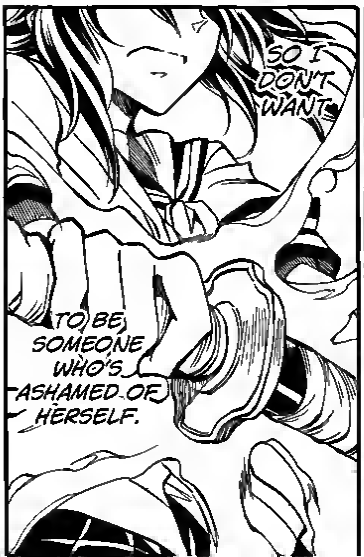






GIVE ME YOUR COURAGE, EVERYONE...



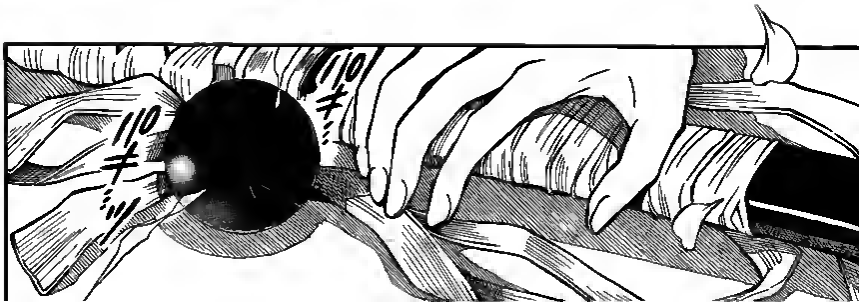

SO I DON'T WANT
TO BE SOMEONE WHO'S ASHAMED OF HERSELF.

WE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEVER SHOULD HAVE MET.

FOR YOUR SAKE, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...
I WILL NEVER... FORGET ANY OF YOU...!
KASANE!!
UMM...!
What was I gonna say
BE WELL!
AND UM...
MAKE SURE TO EAT PROPERLY!

YOU BE WELL TOO...!!!
THANK YOU.

THANK YOU...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MASAMUNE
KOTETSU
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ

SIS...?
KASANE...?

I'M HOME!!!
MASA-MUNE!!
KOTE-TSU...!!

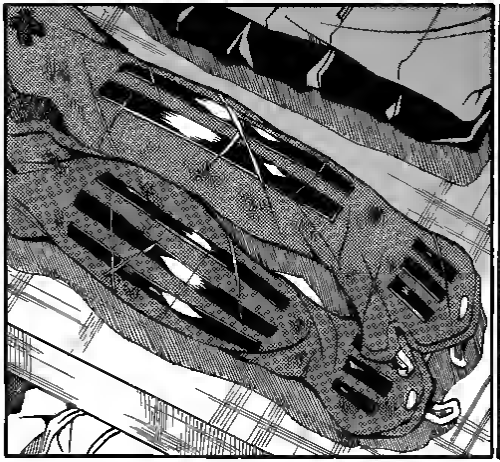
ALRIGHT!

DEAR EVERYONE IN OWARI,
MASAMUNE! KOTETSU!
You're gonna be late!
MASAMUNE, THAT'S MY SHIRT!
'KAAAAY.
WAH!
IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE!?
I HOPE YOU'RE ALL STILL WELL.
He's sleep-eating!
Masamune's still asleep!
Here
Hurry hurry!
IT'S ALREADY BEEN SEVERAL MONTHS.
BYE, GRANDPA!
SEE YOU!
ALRIGHT, I'LL COME PICK YOU UP AFTER SCHOOL!
OKAY!
Got it!
I GOT REACCUSTOMED TO LIVING HERE AGAIN REALLY QUICKLY.

ONE MORE TIME!
OKAY!

SURPRISINGLY, I WAS GONE FOR ALMOST NO TIME COMPARED TO HOW LONG I SPENT WITH ALL OF YOU,
AND RIGHT AFTER I GOT HOME, ALL THE RUMORS OF MY DISAPPEARANCE JUST VANISHED.

I COULD ALMOST WRITE OFF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AS A DREAM.



THUNK
キィッ

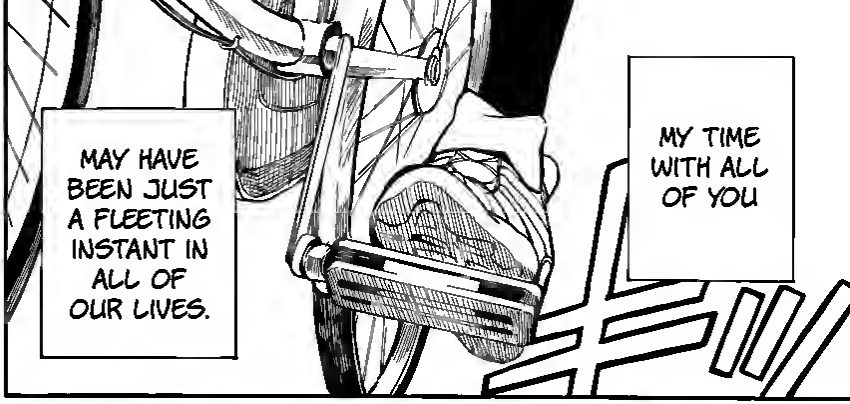
BUT FOR SOME REASON,
?
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ALL STILL NEARBY.
SEE YOU TOMORROW, KASANE!
YUP!
YOU FOOL
YOU WERE RIGHT
THE STONE I GOT FROM AGATSUMA WHICH LET ME RETURN HOME BROKE RIGHT AFTER I GOT HERE,
ALRIGHT...!
SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEND YOU THIS LETTER

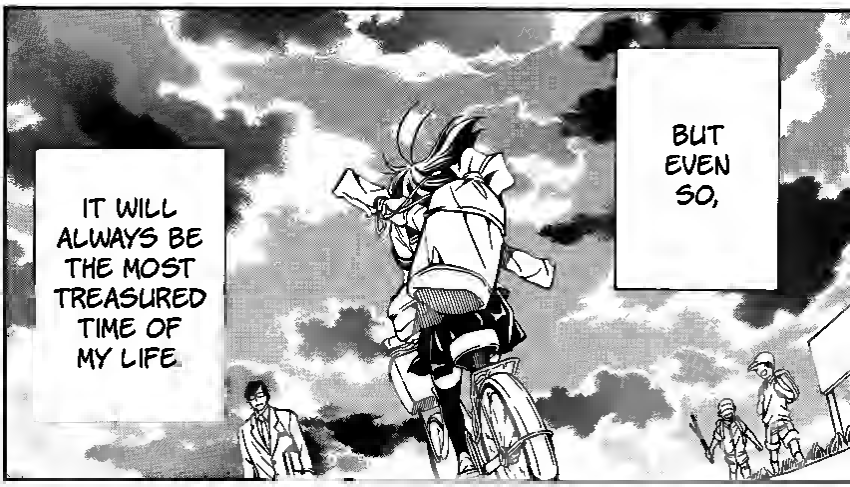
IF I WERE TO WALK THROUGH THAT GATE,
BUT I'M SURE THAT EVEN TODAY,

INUCHIYO PLAYING AROUND NEXT TO THEM,
I'D FIND IKEDA AND HIS FRIENDS WORKING ALL SERIOUSLY,

AND MY LORD..
GOROZA LOOKING AT THE TWO OF THEM AND SMILING,
KURANOSUKE GETTING MAD AT HIM AND TELLING HIM TO DO HIS WORK,

LEADING EVERYONE
WITH A SCARY FACE AND A STRICT VOICE, JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES.


MAY HAVE BEEN JUST A FLEETING INSTANT IN ALL OF OUR LIVES.
MY TIME WITH ALL OF YOU


IT WILL ALWAYS BE THE MOST TREASURED TIME OF MY LIFE.
BUT EVEN SO,

BECAUSE WE'RE NO LONGER TOGETHER,
NO,
SO EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NO LONGER TOGETHER...

I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU.
ODA NOBUNAGA
THE LAND THAT MEANT SO MUCH TO ME,
AND THE PEOPLE I LOVE...
KASANE!!

AND REMEMBER THEM WITH NOTHING BUT PRIDE IN MY HEART.
LET'S GO!!!
I WILL CARRY THEM WITH ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE,
WHETHER THEY WERE A DREAM, AN ILLUSION, OR A TIME SLIP,
戦国青春浪漫活劇、これにて終幕。
ご愛読ありがとうございました!!
コミックス最終15巻は1月22日(木)発売予定——!!
END